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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WHITE HOUSE SUPPORT STAFF

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Date: 2 February, 1974  
Item No.: 2441

DIRECTOR: WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: CAMBODIA: The Military Situation

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The Khmer Communists resumed their shelling of Phnom Penh today after a four-day interlude. About 70 howitzer rounds hit the southern and southwestern areas of the capital, killing at least 16 persons. North of Phnom Penh, enemy pressure caused the withdrawal of Cambodian Army units from positions on the east bank of the Tonle Sap River opposite the capital's petroleum storage depot at Prek Phnou. The enemy followed their ground attacks with ineffective mortar fire against the depot. Reinforced government units are attempting to push the Communists back.

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Cambodian Army units conducting clearing operations near Route 1 encountered entrenched Khmer Communist elements two miles

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southeast of Phnom Penh on February 1. Government reinforcements--backed by artillery--have recently moved into this sector and the Communist force is probably badly outnumbered. Action along the capital's southern defenses was again limited to sporadic artillery and mortar exchanges. Local army commanders are undertaking a complex juggling of units along the southern front. According to a press report, government antiaircraft gunners stationed around Lon Nol's residence in Phnom Penh drove off a Cambodian Air Force T-28 aircraft that flew over the President's quarters. Government officials are investigating the incident. [redacted]

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